Message Text

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DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FEAE-00 FMC-01
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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PLOS, IV SUBJECT: STRATEGY FOR LOS CONSULTATIONS: IVORY COAST

REF: STATE 298001

1. KEY DECISION-MAKER ON LOS ISSUES FOR IVORY COAST IS MINISTER OF MARINE AFFAIRS LAMINE FADIGA. FADIGA IS YOUNG TECHNOCRAT, CAREER NAVY OFFICER BY BACKGROUND, WHO IS CHARGED WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF GOIC'S AMBITIOUS MULTI-MILLION DOLLAR MARITIME EXPANSION PROGRAM. FADIGA ATTENDS PORTIONS OF LOS SESSIONS HIMSELF AND KEEPS IN TELEPHONE TOUCH WITH DELEGATION AT OTHER TIMESS, ALTHOUGH ON DAY-TO-DAY BASIS GOIC AMB SIMEON AKE HAS FAIRLY WIDE DISCRETIONARY AUTHORITY. LETTERS AND APPROACHES SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON FADIGA ALTHOUGH, AS A COURTESY, PARALLEL COMMUNICATIONS OF A HIGH-LEVEL NATURE COMING FROM WASHINGTON SHOULD PROBABLY ALSO BE DIRECTED TO MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS USHER. MFA IS REPRESENTED ON GOIC LAW OF SEA DELEGATION BUT HAS NOT RPT NOT PLAYED SIGNIFICANT ROLE. ON VERY IMPORTANT QUESTIONS INVOLVING BROAD POLICY IMPLICATIONS USHER COULD CONCEIVABLY HAVE A VOICE BUT IN SUCH INSTANCES THE FINAL DECISION WOULD BE TAKEN PERSONALLY BY GOIC PRESIDENT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, APPROACHES TO HOUPHOUET CONFIDENTIAL

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DIRECTLY SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR RARE OCCASIONS ON

ISSUES OF HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO USG.

- 2. OTHER SECTORS WITHIN GOIC SUCH AS MINISTRIES OF MINES, ANIMAL PRODUCTION (FISHERIES) AND PETROLEUM CORPORATION (PETROCI) HAVE A VOICE IN LOS MATTERS BUT THEIR IMPACT DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE MAJOR IN COMPARISON WITH ROLE PALYED BY MINISTER OF MARINE AFFAIRS FADIGA.
- 3. IN PREVIOUS LOS DISCUSSIONS WITH AMBASSADOR, FADIGA HAS DEMONSTRATED RIENDLY ATTITUTDE TOWARD U.S. AND PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO LOS ISSUES. AT SAME TIME FADIGA RECENTLY REITERATED PUBLICLY (SEE ABIDJAN A-112) IVORY COAST'S CONSISTENT POSITION OF MAINTAINING AFRICAN SOLIDARITY ON LOS ISSUES. IVORY COAST THEREFORE UNLIKELY TO GET OUT FRONT ON ANY PARTICULAR LOS ISSUE WITHOUT SIGNIFCANT AFRICAN SUPPORT.
- 3. ON BILATERIAL SIDE, AS DEPARTMENT AWARE, FADIGA IS
 KEENLY INTERESTED IN PLACING IVORY COAST MARINERS IN
 TRAINING IN U.S. INSTITUTIONS IN CONNECTION WITH GOIC
 PLANS TO EXPAND ITS PORT AND FEET CAPABILITIES AS WELL
 AS TO ESTABLISH REGIONAL MARINE TRAINING ACADEMY IN
 IVORY COAST. FADIGA RECENTLY HELD DISCUSSIONS IN U.S.
 (AS WELL AS IN VARIOUS EUROPEAN COUNTRIES) TO THIS END.
 U.S. RESPONSIVENESS TO SUCH REQUESTS COULD BE HELPFUL IN
 LOS CONTEXT. IN THIS CONNECTION, AMBASSADOR WILL TAKE
 OCCASION OF FORTHCOMING CALL ON FADIGA TO INFORM HIM
 THAT U.S. COAST GUARD ACADEMY NOW OPEN TO APPLICATIONS
 FROM LIMITED NUMBER OF FOREIGN NATIONALS (STATE 293616). STEARNS

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